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Press Release

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Bruneian YSEALI Group Participates in Institute on Environmental Issues

Three young Bruneians recently arrived in Hawaii to take part in the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Institute on Environmental Issues hosted by the East-West Center. The East-West Center, established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.

The Institute on Environmental Issues, which runs from May 11 to June 14, 2014, will provide participants an opportunity to explore the role that environmental policy plays in the economic and political development of the United States. The Institute will use experiential learning techniques to expose participants to current themes in the field, including natural resource management, sustainable development/sustainable agricultural practices, food security, ecotourism, energy generation, and water management and treatment.

The participants, Muhammad Hazimi Hj Jaidi, Jenson Wong Wei Kwang, and Noorussa'adah Hassem, are all undergraduate students at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). During the intensive program, they will visit a number of U.S. locations such as Oahu, Hawaii, Boulder, Colorado, and Washington, D.C.

U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Officer Edward Findlay offered the participants his congratulations during a May 7, 2014 visit to the Embassy, stating "The Embassy is delighted that this group of dedicated young people will have the opportunity to equip themselves to create innovative solutions to 21st century environmental challenges."

Noorussa'adah Hassem stated, "Participating in YSEALI will be a very good learning platform and experience to sharpen leadership skills, to share ideas and solutions in tackling global environmental issues, and in creating healthy relationships with other international participants."

Jenson Wong Wei Kwang added, "My partners and I are looking to make the most of this opportunity by reaching out to others to learn from their expertise. The knowledge and skills that we soak up will hopefully fuel us with a huge influx of feasible ideas that we can work on throughout our life and we look forward to disseminate these to the environment youth networks in Brunei."

Muhammad Hazimi Hj Jaidi said, "I am very pleased to be selected as one of the participants in this prestigious program – YSEALI Institute on Environmental Issues – where we will have the chance to meet other ASEAN youths. I also hope that I will understand more on the current environmental issues and learn the policies and environmental movements that the United States implemented after this program."

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